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Your Reference: PU02105  
Application No: GB 0228830.6

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8 April 2003

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)**

I enclose two copies of my search report and a copy of the citations.

**Publication**

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **4 May 2004**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

**Amendment/withdrawal**

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".**

Yours faithfully

Michael R. Wendt  
Examiner

<sup>†</sup>**Use of E-mail:** Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



Application No: GB 0228830.6  
Claims searched: All

Examiner: Michael R. Wendt  
Date of search: 7 April 2003

## Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1, 4 at least	WO 00/67293 A1 (CIPHERGEN) e.g. see Abstract; page 6 lines 10 - 14; page 7 line 22; page 11 lines 4 - 15; Claims 1 & 11.
A		GB 2370114 A (BRUKER D.) e.g. see Abstract; Claim 1; Figure 1A.
A		GB 2332273 A (BRUKER D.) e.g. see Abstract.
X	-----	GB 2176932 A (AGRI. GEN. CO) e.g. see Abstract; Figure 1; page 1 lines 32 - 39; Claims.

### Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

### Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC<sup>V</sup>:

G1B

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC<sup>7</sup>:

B01L; G01N; H01J

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

EPODOC, WPI, Japio